

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 05955 191013Z

15/73

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

/046 W

----- 090471

O R 182012Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0371

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

S E C R E T LONDON 05955

(CORRECTED COPY: PORTION OF TEXT OMITTED)

SECDEF FOR JCS AND SAFOI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MILI, OCLR, GW, UK, NL

SUBJECT: PROJECT CONSTANT TREAT (ALSS)

REF: LONDON 5967

\*. EMBASSY IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES OVER PRESS GUIDANCE, COUPLED WITH IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF MINISTERS ON EXTENDED VISITS OR TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, COULD CAUSE LENGTHY POSTPONE-  
MENT OR CANCELLATION OF PROJECT AND LEAVE BAD TASTE ON BOTH SIDES OF ATLANTIC. FCO TELLS US THAT, WITH SECRETARY MASON LEAVING TOMORROW FOR INDIAN OCEAN/ PERSIAN GULF VISIT AND THE WILSON ENTOURAGE OFF EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, THEY NOW CANNOT VISUALIZE MINISTERS BEING ABLE TO FOCUS ON SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO ALSS GUIDANCE BEFORE SECOND WEEK IN MAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 05955 191013Z

2. WITH FOREGOING IN MIND, EMBOFF AND TIMBERLAKE (OASD/ISA) MET WITH JACKSON (HEAD, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, FCO) 18 APRIL TO ATTEMPT WORK OUT COMPROMISE THAT MIGHT BE USED TO CLEAR IMPASSE. NOTING GENUINE NEED ON PART OF BOTH PARTIES TO HAVE POSITION THAT MAINTAINS CREDIBILITY AND HMG'S REQUIREMENT TO NARROW OPENING THROUGH WHICH LABOR LEFT CAN SNIPE ON A NEW ISSUE, FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WAS DRAFTED:

"USAF AIRCRAFT ARE IN EUROPE TO PARTICIPATE IN A THREE MONTH OPERATIONAL TEST OVER SEVERAL ALLIED COUNTRIES OF A PRECISION, HIGH LEVEL NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM. THE AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE ARMED, NOR WILL THEY TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS. THE AIRCRAFT WILL OPERATE FROM RAF WETHERSFIELD AND OVERFLY OTHER ALLIED NATIONS WITH THEIR PERMISSION.

"Q'S AND A'S WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE ONE ADDED AT US REQUEST (PARA 2, STATE 58876) TO INDICATE CLASSIFIED ASPECT OF PROGRAM"

FCO POINTS OUT THAT THIS WOULD BE INEVITABLE FIRST QUESTION AND THAT NATURE OF ANSWER SHOULD SATISFY IN LARGE MEASURE OUR CREDIBILITY CONCERN.

3. FCO HAS STAFFED PROPOSED COMPROMISE LANGUAGE AND SAYS HMG IS PREPARED TO CONCUR IN GUIDANCE AND LET PROGRAM COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY IF US CAN ACCEPT FORMULATION. IT STRESSES THAT MASON WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY STATEMENT THAT USES THE WORDS "INCLUDING, INVOLVING, USING OR EVALUATING," AS HE BELIEVES GOVERNMENT THEN COULD NOT FIELD QUESTIONS IN COMMONS WITHOUT RISKING DAMAGE TO PROGRAM OR ITS OWN POSITION THERE.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WITH DOD WHETHER US CAN ACCEPT THIS COMPROMISE (OR, ALTERNATELY, CAN SUGGEST OTHER WORDING THAT WOULD NOT INVOLVE MAJOR CHANGE IN TEXT OF STATEMENT ALREADY APPROVED BY PRIME MINISTER, AS SUCH CHANGE WOULD REQUIRE TIME CONSUMING RECLEARANCE BY MINISTERS) SO THAT PROGRAM CAN MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 05955 191013Z

MILLER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MEETINGS, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LONDON05955  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750138-0136  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750438/aaaabjoh.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LONDON 5967  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by WorrelSW>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROJECT CONSTANT TREAT (ALSS)  
**TAGS:** MILI, OCLR, GE, UK, NL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006